

Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Kelli H. Kennedy et al.

Serial No.: 09/782,765

Filed: February 13, 2001

Docket No.: 10005680-1

Title: DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND METHOD WITH CONSOLIDATED DOCUMENT SERVICES MANAGEMENT

REMARKS

The following Remarks are made in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 18, 2005, in which claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 were rejected. Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Specification

The Examiner asserts that the Amendment filed on August 2, 2005 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. More specifically, the Examiner contends that the material of "presenting...the document provider" in claims 1, 9, 10, 19, 26, and 27 is not supported by the original disclosure. *[Applicant notes that the most recent Amendment was filed on May 4, 2005, and that no other Amendments have been filed subsequent to this date. Applicant, therefore, assumes that the Examiner is referring to the Amendment filed on May 4, 2005.]*

Applicant submits that the Amendment filed on May 4, 2005 does not introduce new matter into the disclosure and submits that the material of "presenting...the document provider" is supported by the original disclosure. Applicant notes that information contained in any one of the specification, claims, or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter. See MPEP § 2163.06.

In this instance, for example, per Fig. 1 of the originally filed drawings, the user 14 is the party providing the document 12 to the system. Thus, user 14 is "the document provider." As such, per Fig. 3 of the originally filed drawings, with distribution options list 40 for the document being presented to user 14, the list of distribution options for the document are presented to "the document provider."

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 9, 10, 12, 19, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the

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subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner contends that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "presenting...to the document provider" in claims 1, 9, 10, 12, 19, 26, and 27.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

With respect to claims 1, 9, 10, and 12, Applicant submits that each of these claims do provide sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "presenting...to the document provider." For example, the limitation of claim 1 recites, in full, "presenting the list of distribution options for the document to the document provider." Applicant notes that sufficient antecedent basis is provided within the claim itself for each of the phrases of this limitation. More specifically, antecedent basis for the phrase "the list of distribution options" is provided in line 9 of claim 1 (viz., "a list of distribution options"), antecedent basis for the phrase "the document" is provided in line 1 of claim 1 (viz., "a document"), and antecedent basis for the phrase "the document provider" is provided in line 1 of claim 1 (viz., "a document provider").

With respect to claims 19, 26, and 27, Applicant notes that none of these claims include the limitation "presenting...to the document provider." Claims 19, 26, and 27 do, however, include the limitation "presenting the document distribution services to a document provider" with sufficient antecedent basis for the phrase "the document distribution services" being provided within each of the respective claims.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 9, 10, 12, 19, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Straub et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,216,141.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method of distributing a document of a document provider, and includes receiving a distribution request for the document from the document provider at the document distribution system controller and presenting the list of distribution

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options for the document to the document provider, with the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services.

Independent claim 9 is directed to a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of distributing a document of a document provider, and includes receiving a distribution request for the document from the document provider and presenting the list of distribution options for the document to the document provider, with the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services.

Independent claim 10 is directed to a system for distributing a document of a document provider, and includes a user interface configured to present the list of distribution options for the document to the document provider, with the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services.

Independent claim 19 is directed to a method of managing document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers, and includes presenting the document distribution services to a document provider having a document and receiving a distribution selection for the document from the document provider at the document distribution system controller, with the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services.

Independent claim 26 is directed to a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of managing document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers, and includes presenting the document distribution services to a document provider having a document and receiving a distribution selection for the document from the document provider, with the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services.

Independent claim 27 is directed to a system for managing document distribution services, wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to present the document distribution services to a document provider having a document, and wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to receive a distribution selection for the

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document from the document provider, with the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services.

Independent claims 1, 9, 10, 19, 26, and 27, therefore, each recite that the document is that of a document provider such that the user of the method or the system is the document provider, and each recite that the document distribution services include at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services.

With respect to the Straub et al. patent, this patent does not teach or suggest a method of distributing a document of a document provider as claimed in independent claim 1, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of distributing a document of a document provider as claimed in independent claim 9, a system for distributing a document of a document provider as claimed in independent claim 10, a method of managing document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers as claimed in independent claim 19, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of managing document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers as claimed in independent claim 26, nor a system for managing document distribution services as claimed in independent claim 27.

For example, the Straub et al. patent discloses a system and method for displaying a rich multimedia document in the same window as a desktop window wherein a client computer connects to a computer network and retrieves a channel guide or list of content providers from which a user can select one or more content providers such that the client computer retrieves a document associated with a content provider selected from the channel guide whereby the document is integrated into the desktop window on the client computer (see Abstract). As such, the one or more content providers of the Straub et al. patent is the party providing the document, while the user of the system and method of the Straub et al. patent is the party that merely selects the one or more content providers and the desired document preferences (see, e.g., col. 3, lines 18-35). The user of the system and method of the Straub et al. patent, however, is not the party providing the document nor is the one or more content providers of the Straub et al. patent (viz., the party that is providing the document) presented with or select distribution options for the document. Accordingly,

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neither the user of the system and method of the Straub et al. patent nor the one or more content providers of the Straub et al. patent constitute a document provider as recited in independent claims 1, 9, 10, 19, 26, and 27.

In addition, the Straub et al. patent merely displays the document in the desktop window. The Straub et al. patent, however, does not provide document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services for the document as recited in independent claims 1, 9, 10, 19, 26, and 27.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 9, 10, 19, 26, and 27 are each patentably distinct from the Straub et al. patent and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 3-7 further define patentably distinct claim 1, dependent claims 12-17 further define patentably distinct claim 10, dependent claims 21 and 23-25 further define patentably distinct claim 19, and dependent claims 29 and 30 further define patentably distinct claim 27, Applicant submits that dependent claims 3-7, 12-17, 21, 23-25, 29, and 30 are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Response should be directed to either Nathan Rieth at Telephone No. (208) 396-5287, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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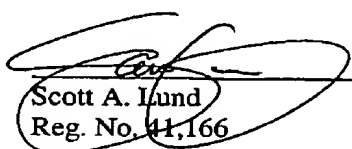
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 19TH day of December, 2005.

By 
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